

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

In compliance with the wishes of very many of our Subscribers, we have had prepared a cover for binding the copies of *THE BUILDER* for those who may be desirous of preserving them in uniform Volumes. These may be had on application at the office, at the price of Two Shillings; or our Publisher will undertake to get sets bound at a charge of Three Shillings per Volume.

The Builder.

NO. XXX.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1844.



BEFORE we proceed further in the year, we take the opportunity of directing the attention of our correspondents to the nature of the co-operation on their part which we should most esteem. We need hardly repeat that the vitality of "THE BUILDER" depends upon its being *fairly practical*. We do not desire to have our pages occupied by wire-drawn arguments upon alleged facts, the truth whereof no one can determine, and which, after all, however spiritual they may seem, are nothing but the operation of peculiar and grosser appetite for quarrelling about trifles—for which the greater part of mankind have fortunately no relish.

Our endeavour is to be useful, and we desire to be usefully supported, believing firmly that such conduct on our part will be as well received by the learned as by the practical man; for both these classes dislike equally impertinent or useless disquisitions, which import only in their composition consume time, but, what is still worse, consume reprehensibly the time of many readers, the aggregate of which profitably employed might produce works of art, charity, and valuable value. We have inadvertently admitted in our columns one or two communications of this kind, and we find the better spirit of our correspondents, who desire writing of a higher character, has been somewhat offended thereby; we shall therefore take especial care to prevent a repetition of the occurrence.

We desire to be informed of, and to convey to our readers, all useful inventions on architectural construction; drawings and descriptions of such subjects will always be acceptable to us.

Papers upon discoveries of architectural antiquities shall ever be welcome.

All manner of good delineations, of genuine architectural ornaments, will also be highly prized; but we hope that in order to render sterling value the publication of such representations, they will always be accompanied by such accurate plans, sections, profiles, and other details, as will enable workmen to reproduce them with exactness.

And we recommend for the furtherance of architectural practical science, that compliance be given by our correspondents as far as possible to the following regulation of the "*Free-masons of the Church*," viz:—

"That in all delineations from existing buildings, the artists and contributors are requested to represent exactly the joining of the masonry and other materials, and all other marks, indications, and pe-

culiations of construction; and also to represent and describe all marks of failure or decay; to describe accurately the nature of the materials; and also to obtain from documents, and from the neighbouring clergy and other competent persons, all information relative to the origin, decay, repair, and other historical particulars connected with the subjects delineated; and it is recommended and hoped that all who shall favour the interest of the college, will put themselves in correspondence with such antiquaries, keepers of records, and others, as can furnish them with the requisite information."

And further,

"That the college adopt in admissions a doctinal numeration, and that the words '*feet*' and '*meters*' be written in full, or their contractions *ft.* and *m.*, or that over feet be set the mark *f* over inches the mark *i* and over twelfths of inches the mark *12*.")

We shall on another and early occasion give some additional directions of the same *Free-masons*, for a modified heraldic mode of representing in prints and cameo drawings, by various positions of lines, &c., the colours of stained glass, Mosaics, and other subjects, a compliance with which we shall beg to recommend, as an easy and certain mode of imparting to workmen the most intricate patterns of partly-coloured designs, without the expense of colouring such patterns.

We should also gladly be the vehicle of conveyance to our subscribers, of accurate information relative to local stone-quarries, and building materials generally; and it would give us great pleasure, if we could obtain a monthly supply of the prices of the various mercantile articles which are used in architecture.

NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL AT LAMBETH.

THIS building, which is situated adjoining the Westminster-road, opposite the Blind Asylum and Bethlehem Hospital, is progressing. The foundation-stone was laid in April, 1840, on which occasion the church was dedicated to St. George, the titular saint of England. It is the largest edifice devoted to the Roman Catholic worship that has been constructed since the Reformation, when Henry VIII. destroyed and reduced the majority of the Roman Catholic establishments. Its external dimensions are 250 feet long by 84 feet broad. The height of the tower at the west end of the edifice is at present about 60 feet, but when completed its extreme elevation will, it is stated, be 330 feet above the ground level. The tower, which is of brick-work, with dressings of Corn stone, contains a belfry with space for a peal of eight bells. On each side of the tower are double bell windows, ornamented with miter and other decorations; and when funds shall admit, the walls, it is stated, are to be ornamented by 100 statues of Roman saints and martyrs. The tower will be surmounted by a spire, terminated by a large cross. The interior height of the church from floor to ceiling, is about 57 feet. The length of the nave is the clear is 160 feet, by 52 feet broad; the chancel is 40 feet long by 26 feet broad. Adjoining the chancel, on each side, are two small chapels for altars, over which are to be placed stained-glass windows. The chancel consists of eight bays in each row. The pillars are 38 feet in height, and will be finished by capitals carved with foliage. The floor of the nave and aisles will be covered with red and blue Staffordshire tiles, each tile measuring six inches square. The chancel and side chapels are to be paved with encaustic tiles cast in different shapes and of various colours. At the south-west corner of the south aisle will be placed a large baptismal font carved in Corn stone. The interior of the chapel is not ob-

structed by galleries; the only projections are the organ-loft and the two small galleries for the choir over the two side doorways at the east end. No pews or closed seats will be allowed, but open benches will be placed down the aisles constructed with low backs, so as to afford an unobstructed view of the interior. The seats will yield accommodation for 3,000 persons.

The bare cost of erecting the chapel will be 20,000*l.*, but it is expected that a sum of 40,000*l.* will be necessary to complete all the contemplated works. At the east end of the chapel is a sacristy, and adjacent to the north-east corner are cloisters, which connect the edifice with a presbytery, containing a dining-room, and affording accommodation for 300 monks and priests. Abutting on this is a convent for the Sisters of Mercy, and a school for 300 children. The convent is fitted up with 300 cells, a refectory, dormitories, a small chapel with a belfry, and will furnish an abode for thirteen Sisters of Mercy. The convent, with its accompanying buildings, will cost 7,000*l.* A considerable sum must be expended before the great tower and spire will be completed. The subscriptions towards this undertaking have, for the most part, been raised in the provinces through the exertions of the Rev. Mr. Doyle, who is the officiating priest. The Earl of Shrewsbury and the late Mr. Benjamin George Hodges have been the principal procurers of the contributions. A considerable sum has also been subscribed by the pious classes inhabiting the parish of St. George. The names of the King of Sardinia, the King of Bohemia, and other foreign potentates also appear in the list of contributors. A liberal donation is expected from Louis Philippe, the King of the French.

We are not particularly pleased with the architecture of this chapel and of its adjoining buildings: its exterior being composed principally of a coarse brown-colored brick, with some admixture of dark stone, the whole pile has a dingy appearance; the effeminate late Edwardian architect, the last branch of that which is denominated by Rickman "*Decorated*," has been chosen, under which is sounded the name of the architecture of this period have frequently very great elegancies, but the style is rather disagreeable than otherwise, when applied on a large scale, as in this case; the whole pile has an ill-proportioned squat appearance of seeming as insubstantial with the extended flat roof, upon which is founded. Most of the windows of the chapel partake of this same character of extended squareness; and in vain do you turn search for that lofty character, that heavenly carrying away of the mind which overcomes you when viewing such fabrics as Westminster Abbey, W. approve. In consequence of the nature of the window-tracery, though some of the patterns which are adopted we think stiff and inelegant, as are some of those after which the pierced parapet is formed.

Many parts of this pile are unimpaired, as, for instance, its buttresses project very unduly at their first or lower tallings, and it shows those tallings very flat. We shall not go minutely into the philosophy of the subject, but content ourselves on the present occasion by saying this is unscientific and is without precedent, except in very inferior examples built by the unskilful, or in good examples which have been corrupted by being ignorantly restored. Again, the application of the tower as a chapel as formed in violation of sound principles; but allowing it to be imperfect structure to partake, in some slight respect, of the nature of a vault, even here, in violation of prudence, the pinnacles remain for future addition; whereas the address of the genuine old free-masons was always to place the buttresses and surmount them with intended buttresses, being fixed before vault or roof of any kind was erected; so that they contrived to do with half the abutment and half the strength of vaulting which moderns require. If the roof of the fabric stand firmly without the pinnacles, they are entirely useless, and the buttresses are therefore *un-necessary*, for no initiated free-mason ever designed pinnacles and other great members of architecture which were not mechanically and constructively necessary. If, on the contrary, the pinnacles are essential to the architecture, no initiated mason would have been imprudent enough to have had a crack in the roof-work before the top-stone of every pinnacle was set.

We also object to the metal-work surmount-